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TRIAL EVIDENCE. By Austin Abbott, LL. D. Second edition, revised and enlarged by John J. Crawford. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. 1900. pp. xxxvi, 1190.

Mr. Abbott published the first edition of his work about twenty years ago. It found immediate sale, since it satisfied a want long felt by the trial lawyer. It was not intended to be, nor is it, useful to the student of the theoretical law of evidence. But to the practitioner it became invaluable, offering as it did a ready reference to the rules of evidence applicable to every case. Its greatest merit perhaps lay in its arrangement. The learned author treated one after the other all the ordinary common law actions. These he classified not only according to the so-called forms of action, but also according to the character of the parties. He enumerated all the allegations and defences which the law required of the plaintiff or made possible to the defendant, as well as the methods of proof permissible in both. Each statement was fortified by copious authorities.

The present edition, so far as its text is concerned, amounts to little more than a reprint of the former one. Where the editor has condescended to amend or add, he has thought it superfluous to indicate the fact. The notes are open to the same criticism. In this portion of the book, however, the editor's work is seen to have been considerable, though the increase, when it is ascertained, after a laborious comparison of the two editions, appears to have been largely confined to the section dealing with actions based on negligence. The greatest fault of this volume lies in the paucity of late authorities. The cases are not brought down to date, and remain but a list of such decisions as were in existence before the issue of the original work. The most noticeable improvement over the earlier edition lies in the printing, type, and binding, which show that excellence and strength ever characteristic of the work of the publishers. In conclusion it may be said that the editor has rendered a service to the legal profession by placing in the market this admirable treatise which has for some time been out of print. To those, then, who have not the first edition, this volume will prove most valuable in the trial of cases; but those already in possession of the original will find it of little additional service.

H. F.

We have also received:—

THE LAW OF ELECTRIC WIRES IN STREETS AND HIGHWAYS. By Edwin Quinton Keasbey. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Chicago: Callaghan & Co. 1900. pp. xlv, 358. The first edition of this work appeared in 1892, when the law on this subject had hardly formed. Since then the employment of electricity has in all ways largely increased, and many new uses for it have arisen. It is but natural that the law should keep pace with this development. Accordingly, Mr. Keasbey has found it necessary to more than double the size of his book, and to add new chapters on questions that at the time of the first edition had not been distinctly presented as separate topics, namely, on condemnation of private rights, on the liability for injuries from the unauthorized obstruction of the highway, and from negligence in the construction or maintenance of the lines, and on the question whether